

Message

From: Martinson, Mathew [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=07993C0BB86D42E4806A6EAE5184A611-MARTINSON,]
Sent: 11/19/2020 7:58:10 PM
To: Opalski, Dan [Opalski.Dan@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: LUB GWMA Write-up (CONCERNS EXPRESSED)

Okay. I get it. I'm going to go back to Marianne's message and consider.

Mathew J. Martinson, P.E., BCEE
CAPT, USPHS
Chief, Permitting, Drinking Water and Infrastructure Branch
U.S. EPA, Region 10
Phone: 206-553-6334 (Direct)

Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

 (Cell)

From: Opalski, Dan <Opalski.Dan@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2020 11:54 AM
To: Martinson, Mathew <martinson.mathew@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: LUB GWMA Write-up (CONCERNS EXPRESSED)

Thanks. At a point it is probably better to cut bait and figure out another submittal if this continues to feel to "forced."

From: Martinson, Mathew <martinson.mathew@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2020 11:45 AM
To: Opalski, Dan <Opalski.Dan@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: LUB GWMA Write-up (CONCERNS EXPRESSED)

I'll try a reframing and talk to Peter over lunch.

Mathew J. Martinson, P.E., BCEE
CAPT, USPHS
Chief, Permitting, Drinking Water and Infrastructure Branch
U.S. EPA, Region 10
Phone: 206-553-6334 (Direct)

Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

 (Cell)

From: Opalski, Dan <Opalski.Dan@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2020 11:41 AM
To: Martinson, Mathew <martinson.mathew@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: LUB GWMA Write-up (CONCERNS EXPRESSED)

Also, possibly a slightly different frame to focus on public health:

1. Background on petition – recognized potential seriousness of the petitions stated bases from a public health perspective
2. Process – Thoughtful, thorough, collaborative – got what we needed for our assessment but in a way that strengthened relationships
3. Outcomes – Clarified (narrowed) where there could be gaps of public health concern

-- Confirmed that this is really in the state's sphere; continuing to consult and assist where possible on their next steps.

I am hoping this adjustment could keep us out of the areas of concern?

From: Martinson, Mathew <martinson.mathew@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2020 11:29 AM
To: Opalski, Dan <Opalski.Dan@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: LUB GWMA Write-up (CONCERNS EXPRESSED)

Thanks Dan. I'll follow-up more. I know that you have meetings today. Sorry about the unfortunate timing.

Mathew J. Martinson, P.E., BCEE
CAPT, USPHS
Chief, Permitting, Drinking Water and Infrastructure Branch
U.S. EPA, Region 10
Phone: 206-553-6334 (Direct)

Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

 (Cell)

From: Opalski, Dan <Opalski.Dan@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2020 11:27 AM
To: Martinson, Mathew <martinson.mathew@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: LUB GWMA Write-up (CONCERNS EXPRESSED)

Can you tell me a little more about his concern with the last paragraph of the long version. Maybe we need more of a disclaimer around what might be next, especially if

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

? (Though this would surprise me based upon the AA-level posture.)

Will need to try to do this via email for now as I engage in other things.

From: Martinson, Mathew <martinson.mathew@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2020 11:22 AM
To: Opalski, Dan <Opalski.Dan@epa.gov>
Subject: LUB GWMA Write-up (CONCERNS EXPRESSED)

Dan – Peter Contreras is concerned about submitting this given the past level of concern from AA level officials and given the current exchange he's having with ORC/OECA. (I haven't seen their concerns or comments.) I am okay with this shorter version. Longer version is below.

EPA completes initial assessment of SDWA 1431 Petition in Oregon

In response to a petition submitted to EPA in January 2020, an Inter-Divisional team from EPA Region 10, with participation from OECA, completed an independent initial inquiry and review of the substance of the complaint raised by a group of nine petitioners. These nine entities jointly petitioned the EPA to exercise emergency powers to address groundwater contamination in the Lower Umatilla Basin in Oregon. The EPA team, led by Water and Enforcement programs, worked diligently and quickly to ascertain information and the threat to human health and the environment, interviewed Oregon State officials at three separate agencies, and conducted a review of available data and over 1,500 pages of material submitted by the petitioners. Additionally, EPA leadership was kept apprised of the developments throughout, including a briefing to multiple Assistant Administrators that occurred on June 4, 2020. EPA is now seeking a multi-stakeholder solution with state agencies to address potential risks to nitrates in private wells.

LONGER VERSION

In response to a petition submitted to EPA in January 2020, an Inter-Divisional team from EPA Region 10, with participation from OECA, completed an independent initial inquiry and review of the substance of the complaint raised by

a group of nine petitioners. These nine entities jointly petitioned the EPA to exercise emergency powers to address groundwater contamination in the Lower Umatilla Basin in Oregon. The EPA team, led by Water and Enforcement programs, worked diligently and quickly to ascertain information and the threat to human health and the environment, interviewed Oregon State officials at three separate agencies, and conducted a review of available data and over 1,500 pages of material submitted by the petitioners. Additionally, EPA leadership was kept apprised of the developments throughout, including a briefing to multiple Assistant Administrators that occurred on June 4, 2020. EPA will continue to seek a multi-stakeholder solution with state agencies to address potential risks to nitrates in private wells.

During the initial inquiry and subsequent follow-up it became clear that the States faced challenging circumstances in 2020, not the least of which were loss of funding from Centers for Disease Control, for an individual (private) well program, and the backdrop of public health and fiscal challenges resulting from two unprecedented events: a global pandemic and unprecedented wildfires.

The noteworthy success of this effort, especially given the broader events, was the balance of independent in-depth inquiry and relationship development that the EPA team achieved with multiple state agency stakeholders. Throughout the effort in 2020, the State officials recognized EPA's role and authority and was exceptionally responsive to inquiries and requests for information. EPA staff and managers on the team were able to convey the depth of concern, while doing so in a way that strengthened the EPA and State relationships. This approach has resulted in a joint problem-solving approach that continues despite the ongoing and significant environmental and potential human health challenges posed by the wildfires.

Mathew J. Martinson, P.E., BCEE
CAPT, USPHS
Chief, Permitting, Drinking Water and Infrastructure Branch
U.S. EPA, Region 10
Phone: 206-553-6334 (Direct)

Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

 (Cell)



Mathew J. Martinson, P.E., BCEE
CAPT, U.S. Public Health Service
Chief | Permits, Drinking Water and Infrastructure Branch
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10
1200 Sixth Avenue; Suite 155, Mail Stop 19-H16
Seattle, Washington 98101-3140
(206) 553-6334

Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

 (cell)
